New guidelines on funding and monitoring of various Schemes

3302. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have new guidelines on funding and monitoring various schemes;

(b) whether watershed programmes would be allocated more funds; and

(c) if so, what are the details?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU): (a) No New guidelines on funding and monitoring of various schemes have been issued by the Ministry of Rural Development.

(b) and (c) While the Government recognises the importance of strengthening the watershed development programmes, the allocation of funds would depend upon the availability of financial resources.

Holding of Panchayat Elections

3303. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the States and Union Territories who have not complied with the mandatory provision of the Constitution to hold election to Panchayats at the expiry of the five years;

(b) the States and Union Territories who have approached court for postponement of election;

(c) whether Government propose to issue direction for withholding of funds under Central and Centrally Sponsored Schemes to such States who have not held elections; and

(d) if so, what action Government have taken?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU): (a) Panchayat elections are overdue in the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Jharkhand, Gujarat (for Gram Panchayats), Punjab (for Intermediate Panchayats and District Panchayats) and Uttaranchal and in the UTs of Chandigarh (for intermediate Panchayats), NCT Delhi and Pondicherry.

(b) Matters relating to Panchayat elections are pending in various Courts with regard to Bihar, Punjab and the Union Territory of Pondicherry.